IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

UNILOC 2017 LLC and UNILOC USA, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

V.

PATENT CASE

GOOGLE LLC,

SUIL ACTION NOS. 2:18-cv-00491-504
RG-RSP; 2:18-cv-00548-553-JRG

PATENT CASE

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

JOINT SUBMISSION OF DISPUTED E-DISCOVERY ORDER

Pursuant to the Court's scheduling order, Plaintiffs Uniloc 2017 LLC and Uniloc USA, Inc. ("Plaintiffs" or Uniloc") and Defendant Google LLC ("Google") jointly submit the attached proposed E-Discovery Order. Although the parties have reached agreement on most of the issues, one issue remains for judicial resolution:

(1) E-Mail Custodians and Search Terms

Each side's position is set out below.

UNILOC'S POSITION

The only disputed position in the proposed ESI Order is the number of custodians and search terms. Uniloc proposes the language from the Court's Model Order. Google seeks to deviate from the Model Order by reducing the number of custodians (to 10 initial custodians and 5 search custodians) and by reducing the number of search terms (from 10 to 7).

¹ http://www.txed.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/E-Discovery_Patent_Order.pdf

Uniloc's proposal should be adopted because the Model Order on the number of custodians and search terms is fair to Google and is often used by parties without modification. Indeed, Google has agreed to the standard language in other cases.²

Regarding the number of search terms, the cost and effort involved in doing 10 searches versus 7 searches is de minimus. There is no reason to deviate from the Model Order.

Regarding the number of custodians, deviating from the Model Order by adopting Google's proposal would prejudice Uniloc. Google's initial disclosures in these cases disclose a range of 8 to 14 Google employees.³ Thus, the number of search custodians would need be *increased* from the default just to account for the custodians already identified by Google. Google's proposal to reduce search custodians from 8 to 5 will exclude between 3 to 9 of the Google witnesses already identified.

GOOGLE'S POSITION

One disputed issue remains for resolution by the Court, which concerns the number of custodians and the number of search terms per custodian that will be permitted in requests for e-mail production. Google's position on this issue is reasonable, principled, and aimed at ensuring cost-efficient discovery while giving the Parties access to all relevant information they need to litigate each of the above identified cases. Google has proposed to set the number of custodians and search terms at five and seven,

² Virentem Ventures, LLC d/b/a Enounce v. YouTube, LLC and Google LLC, Case No. 1:18-cv-00917-MN, Dkt. 79 (DED)(April 24, 2019)(10 custodians and 10 search terms), Buy2Networks, Ltd. v. Google, Inc., Case No. 1:16-cv-470, Dkt. 33 (DED)(Nov. 30, 2016)(10 custodians and 10 search terms). In the meet and confer, Google mentioned Uniloc agreeing to lower numbers than the Court's Mode Order in the past. Uniloc asked Google to send such cases to see if the facts were similar. As of the agreed exchange time, Google had not sent such cases.

³ See e.g., -491 Case (8 Google employee), -492 Case (10 Google employees), - 493 Case (11 Google employees), -494 Case (8 Google employees), -495 Case (11 Google employees), -496 Case (10 Google Employees), -497 Case (14 Google Employees), -498 Case (8 Google Employees), -499 Case (10 Google employees), -500 Case (10 Google employees), -501 Case (9 Google employees), -502 Case (12 Google employees), -503 Case (8 Google employees), and -504 Case (8 Google employees).

respectively, in each case, because each of the above identified cases is relatively straightforward, involving only one patent-in-suit. Further, Uniloc recently agreed to comparable numbers—five custodians and five search terms—in a similar case before this Court. *Uniloc 2017 LLC v. Cisco Sys.*, *Inc.*, 1:18-cv-505-JRG, Dkts. 19, 36 (E.D. Tex). But Uniloc nonetheless has rejected Google's proposal. And it has done so without offering Google a principled explanation. Because Google's proposal is calculated to ensure a thorough and cost-efficient discovery of the Parties' claims and defenses in each case, and because Uniloc has failed to offer principled reasons for rejecting these proposals, the Court should resolve the disputed issue in Google's favor.

Uniloc reflexively insists that the Parties adhere to the numbers set out in the Court's sample order, but it does so without a principled basis and without respect to the straightforward nature of these cases, which involves only a single patent-in-suit in each case in which this ESI order would apply. When the straightforward nature of this case is taken into account—for example, when the number of custodians and search terms are considered on a per-patent basis—the numbers insisted upon by Uniloc far exceed what Uniloc has agreed to in other cases. *See, e.g., Uniloc 2017 LLC v. Cisco Sys., Inc.*, 1:18-cv-505-JRG, Dkts. 19, 36 (E.D. Tex) (agreeing to 5 custodians and 5 search terms per custodian, but claiming infringement of 2 patents); *Uniloc USA, Inc. v. Allscripts Healthcare Solutions Inc.*, 6:14-cv-625-RWS, Dkts. 144, 150 (E.D. Tex.) (agreeing to 8 custodians and 10 search terms per custodian, but claiming infringement of 2 patents); *Uniloc USA, Inc. v. Cerner Corp.*, 6:14-cv-625-RWS, Dkts. 150, 151 (E.D. Tex.) (same). Most notably, in the above-cited case of *Cysco Systems*, which is also before this Court, Uniloc agreed to 5 custodians and 5 search terms each. That is almost precisely what Google has proposed here, except that Google has proposed a *higher* number of search terms—even though all of the cases in which this ESI order would apply involve only one patent, instead of two patents as asserted in the *Cisco*

Systems case. Uniloc has offered no explanation for rejecting here what it has recently accepted in other, similar cases.

Further, Uniloc has sued Google in 18 separate cases currently pending in this District. Allowing Uniloc to obtain discovery on even 5 custodians per case, therefore, could result in Uniloc obtaining discovery on nearly 100 Google custodians—far more than if Uniloc had brought all of its claims against Google in a single action. This multiplication of the number of custodians to which Uniloc could obtain access imposes an extraordinary burden on Google and is inherently unfair. The number of custodians should be strictly limited in light of this circumstance.

Finally, the proposed ESI order already makes allowance for future adjustments to the allotted number of custodians and search terms, so the numbers proposed by Google could be increased later if necessary. Specifically, the ESI order contemplates (pgs. 5-6) that either party may petition the Court for an upward or downward adjustment to the number of custodians and search terms "upon showing a distinct need related to the size, complexity, and issues of this specific case." This provision would, Uniloc might point out, accommodate a downward adjustment as well as an upward adjustment, but logic and experience suggest that starting with lower numbers and increasing them later, if needed, makes the most sense. Loosening the belt is always easier than tightening it, and starting with fewer custodians and search terms in this case would be most economical.

Given that this case is relatively straightforward, that Uniloc has recently agreed in similar cases to terms consistent with Google's proposal here, that Uniloc has sued Google in 18 separate cases now pending in this District, and that the ESI order would accommodate future upward adjustments to the number of custodians and search terms if necessary, Google respectfully requests that the Court enter Google's proposed terms on this issue.

Dated: August 5, 2019 Respectfully submitted,

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